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Appl. No 10/669,985
Atty. Docket No. CM2698
Amdt. dated November 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2004
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible absorbent article suitable for use with a garment, said article has a flexibility when measured according to stiffness tester AB Lorentzen & Wettre at 38°C that is of at least 250% more than the flexibility of said article when measured at 23°C.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 1 wherein said article has a flexibility of about 100 mN to about 10 mN when measured according to stiffness tester AB Lorentzen & Wettre at 23°C.
4. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 1 wherein said flexibility when measured according to stiffness tester AB Lorentzen & Wettre at 38°C is in the range of about 100 mN to about 10 mN.
5. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 1 wherein said article has a total liquid absorption capacity of more than 1 g, as measured on the entire article.
6. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 1 wherein the maximum thickness of said article is less than 3 mm.
7. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 1 wherein the article has a flexibility in a transverse direction which is at least 10% more than its flexibility in a longitudinal direction when measured with a AB Lorentzen & Wettre apparatus at 23°C.

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8. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 1 wherein said article comprises a liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition comprising a thermoplastic polymeric base material having particles of water-insoluble water swellable absorbent material dispersed therein.
9. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 8 wherein said liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition is configured in a plurality of unattached spaced apart zones.
10. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claims 8 wherein said liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition comprises from about 5% to about 99% by weight of a polymeric base material comprising a thermoplastic polymer or a mixture thereof, and from about 1% to about 95% by weight of particles of water insoluble water swellable absorbent material.
11. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 10 wherein said polymeric base material is a hot melt adhesive typically comprising from about 10% to about 50% by weight of a block copolymer, from about 0% to about 50% by weight of a tackifying resin, from about 10% to about 80% by weight of a plasticizer and from about 0% to about 2.0% by weight of antioxidant.
12. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 8 wherein said liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition has a tensile strength in a wet state which is at least 20% of the tensile strength of said composition in dry state, said tensile strengths evaluated according to the Tensile Strength Test described herein.
13. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 8, wherein said particles of water-insoluble water swellable absorbent material have a substantially angle-lacking shape and most preferably have an average particle diameter in dry state of below 150 μm .
14. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 8 wherein said article comprises a liquid pervious surface typically provided per a topsheet, a liquid impervious surface typically provided per a backsheet and an absorbent element sandwiched between the liquid pervious surface and the liquid impervious surface, said absorbent element comprising said liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition comprising a thermoplastic polymeric base

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material having particles of water-insoluble water swellable absorbent material dispersed therein, typically configured in unattached spaced apart zones, most preferably stripes.

15. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 14, wherein within the absorbent element the liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition represents at least 15% by weight of the total weight of the absorbent element.
16. (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 1, wherein said article is a feminine protection article.